

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 19 are pending in the application.

Applicants reiterate their acknowledgment with gratitude the Examiner's indication that Claim 7 is allowable over the art of record.

Applicants further acknowledge with gratitude the Examiner's indication that Claims 11, 13 through 15 and 17 through 19 are likewise patentable in light of the art of record. Accordingly, the allowable subject matter of Claim 13 has been incorporated into Claim 1.

Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to reflect that the methods of the invention advantageously separate the saturated organic compound from a mixture. Support for this amendment can be found in the Application-as-filed.

Claim 1 has also been amended to remove the recitation "having free p electrons," deemed immaterial to patentability by the Examiner.

As noted above, Claim 1 has also been amended to reflect that in advantageous embodiments the saturated organic compound containing at least one functional group is detached from the ion exchanger using a solvent. Support for this amendment can be found in the Application-as-filed, for example in Claim 13 as-filed.

Accordingly, Claim 13 has been canceled, as its subject matter has been incorporated into Claim 1.

Claim 14 has been amended to depend from Claim 1.

Reexamination and reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of all rejections, and formal notification of the allowability of the pending claims are earnestly solicited in light of the remarks which follow.

Obviation of Rejection

Under 35 USC § 112

Claims 1, 3, 9, 10 through 17 and 19 stand rejected over the newly introduced term "having free p electrons." Applicants respectfully submit that, in contrast to the urgings of the Office Action, one skilled in the art could readily practice the invention as defined in the claims as-submitted on December 4, 2006 without undue experimentation. However, solely to advance prosecution of the case and without further addressing the merits of the rejection, Claim 1 has been amended to remove the phrase "having free p electrons."

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1 through 19 stand rejected over the term "producing." Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to recite "separating" in lieu of "producing," as kindly suggested by the Examiner.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection, as well.

Obviation of Rejection

Under 35 USC § 103

Claims 1 through 6, 8 through 10, 12 and 16 stand rejected over United States Patent No. 3,922,217 to Cohen et al. (US 217).

As the subject matter of allowable Claim 13 has been incorporated into Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 through 6, 8 through 10, 12 and 16 as-amended are now allowable in light of US 217, considered either alone or in combination.

Applicants further respectfully make of record that the foregoing amendment was made solely to advance prosecution of the case, and without prejudice or disclaimer to the filing of continuing applications.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that Applicants have made a significant and important contribution to the art, which is neither disclosed nor suggested in the art. It is believed that all of pending Claims 1 through 12 and 14 through 19 are now in condition for immediate allowance. It is requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned if any questions remain to expedite examination of this application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time and/or fees are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2193.

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Respectfully submitted,

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